

Dear Asbury Members,

The Finance Committee will be very focused this year, seeking to ensure all the ministries of the church are fully funded. The challenge is, there is an estimated shortfall of what will be needed to accomplish the work God has set before us.

I would sincerely ask for each of you to consider giving your offerings to the Lord's work on a regular basis. One way to accomplish this is to use the Electronic Offering option which the church offers. My family has personally been using this as the means of giving regularly to the ministry.

Electronic offerings are seamless and provide steady income to the church. Your offering can be electronically donated weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. To begin using the Electronic Donations please contact the church office at 432-366-4455. Tina will be glad to get you set up! Then you will always know, if your home or away, you are supporting what God is accomplishing in our midst.

Blessings,  
Pastor Russ

### Bind Us Together – Bishop Itineration

Bishop Bledsoe will be visiting towns across the Conference on a spring itineration. Joining him will be the DS of location, CF&A representative, Insurance/Benefits representative, Randall Partin, Provost, Sid Strebeck, Conference Lay Leader & others.

The United Methodist Church is facing change and challenge from within. Simultaneously, we have the opportunity to bring light and grace to an uncertain world without. The Bishop felt compelled to travel throughout the NM & NWTX Conferences to provide an update and address questions and concerns. At a time when our differences tend to be more prominent, this will be an opportunity to talk and focus on what binds us together.

Bishop Bledsoe will be at First Methodist Church on Saturday, March 18. He will begin the time of sharing at 10:00am. The Conference wants to hear from you! Questions? Contact Randall Partin at (505)255-8786 or randall@nmconfum.com.



# THE JOURNAL

Asbury - "Where Hearts are Warmed for Christ"

January 31st, 2017

## A word from the Pastor

Grace, Peace, and the Joy of Christ be yours!

One time, when Jesus was asked the question by a lawyer, "Who is my neighbor?" He responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan. In the parable, Jesus speaks of a man who was hurt. He had been beaten, robbed, and left for dead. A priest happened by, and turned the other way. Then came a Levite (priestly clan) and he also passed by, ignoring the man. Then there happened by a Samaritan, a man who was despised by everyone, but this man was filled with compassion for the hurting man and his compassion moved him to help the one in need - to get involved.

One of the challenges we face in our society today is that we have a great misconception of the unbelievers around us. We often live, work, and sometimes play with people who are not Christians and it seems many of them have their lives all together. They are crying out in agony over the guilt of their sin. They are not wallowing in the gutter as parts of the dregs of society. In fact, many of the unbelievers we come in contact with seeming have their lives in good order, often more so than Christians. Many are good, successful, well adapted, happy, people! We need to change the way we think about non-Christians and as we do, we will be better prepared to reach them with the love of God in Christ.

The first thing we need to understand is that many or even most non-Christians are not atheists. In fact, only 3.1% of the population of the United States is truly atheists. While many Americans do not attend church or claim Christianity as their religion, many are very religious or spiritual.

The second thing we need to understand is that we are now on the third, if not the fourth generation of people in our society who have been raised unchurched! We must throw out our assumptions that everyone knows the basics of the Christian faith and have chosen to reject it. Rather, ask yourself, how much do you know about Hinduism or Buddhism? Do you know enough to articulate what these religions truly believe? The average unchurched person in America knows roughly as much about Christianity as you know about Taoism!

Thirdly, because most unbelievers are living relatively normal, productive lives, they do not believe they need God! In other words, what does God or the Church have to offer them that they don't already have?

So what are we to do? Long gone are the days of evangelism and mission outreach that included walking through the neighborhoods, knocking on doors, and handing out pamphlets. If you were to attempt the confrontational evangelism of decades ago by which you asked people if they were going to heaven

or hell when they die, you would be accused of all types of things - and called all types of names!

The church of today must rethink how we are attempting to reach out into our world with God's saving grace. While there are many aspects to this, the one I wish to put forth to you today is that you have a vital role as the hands and feet of Christ to show His mercy and love to those who are in need.

When the Samaritan saw a need, he was moved with compassion to help. If there had not been a person in need, they would have simply passed each other on the road. But because there was a need, he could intervene in a unique way to love another person.

Your everyday life intersects dozens of other people, from those in the grocery store line, to the person serving you at Wendy's. Neighbors and friends talk on the phone and go out to each lunch together. Your coworkers share events in their lives just as a matter of conversation. You are positioned in the world in a way I am not as a pastor. You are in the midst of the mission field of our community! So what are you to do?

Here is what I would like for you to try! Simply listen! That's it! Listen! Listen to people as they share their lives with you. Be friendly and engaging, but listen to what they are saying. If you hear pain, heartache, or hurting, God is opening a door for grace!

You might possibly hear of a marriage in crisis. Or a coworker may share that a good friend just had a heart-attack and is hospitalized. A parent may be struggling with cancer or a child may be in trouble. Whatever the circumstance, when you hear someone is in crisis, God is opening a door of opportunity for grace.

When you hear anything from a friend or someone you just met, ask one simple question: "Does \_\_\_\_\_ have a pastor/church family who is coming to visit them?" If the answer is yes, then celebrate that with them and tell them you will be praying for them. If however, the answer is no or I don't know, then ask if you could share their story with your pastor because he will come visit! If you will simply listen and then let the church know a person is in need, I will reach out to them and minister to them.

Why is this important? When someone seemingly has their life together, that person might not think they need God. When crisis comes, and it will to all of us, we find in that moment that God is real and He is willing to come along side and love us. In that moment we can all work together to share the love of Jesus.

Blessings,  
Pastor Russ

### Our Mission

Connect - to God and neighbor

Equip - to disciple

Send - to serve

### Our Vision

A vibrant faith community that reaches out with the love of Christ to every generation for the transformation of the world.

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### Sunday Worship:

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Services,  
Sanctuary

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages

Pastor Russ Nebhut

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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### Serving Schedule:

#### Greeters February 5th

9:00 a.m. Sammie Rogers, Mike Krueger

11:00 a.m. Marilyn Andjulis

#### Ushers February 5th

D. Andjulis Captain, B. Jones, G. Haynes, M. Krueger, M. Nelson, K. Lind

#### Technology February 5th

Media Computer Anthony M.

Sound Board 9:00 Tim. B.

11:00 Mike W.

Video Camera 9:00 Sunder P.

11:00 Jaci B.

#### Greeters February 12th

9:00 a.m. Sammie Rogers, Mike Krueger

11:00 a.m. Mary Davidson, Lois Lutes

#### Ushers February 12th

B. Johnson Captain, H. Lane, M. Krueger

#### Technology February 12th

Media Computer Mike D.

Sound Board 9:00 John B.

11:00 Anthony M.

Video Camera 9:00 Sunder P.

11:00 Jaci B.

### 2017 Finances:

#### January

Budget Income: \$31,535.42

Budget Expenses: \$31,353.42

Balance: \$182.00

### Attendance:

January 22nd, 2017

9:00 62

11:00 94

Sunday School 51

January 29th, 2017

Fifth Sunday

11:00 151

Sunday School 67

## Prayer Requests

### PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND AND THOSE IN NURSING HOMES:

Lois Holt Gertrude Merrit (Parks) Trula Palmer  
Mona Rogge Wanda Stahl Clarence Stahl  
Mary Jo Hill Joy Bolding

### PRAYERS FOR ASBURY FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Sue Angle	Jeanie DeShazo	Helen Lewis	Amanda Moss	Joy Slack
Christie Applegate	Mike DeShazo	Ralph Lewis	Noah Moss	Roger Smith
Tammy Armstrong	Judy DeWeese	Kennedy Linch	Jerri Nickel	Kimberly Stepp
Ronald Bennett	Libby Ellrich	Keith Little	Jim Nickel	Hollis Terry
Marilyn Brown	Mark Farquhar	Bailey Lively	Kim Nowlin	Sandra Vickers
Paul Brown	Anita Guinn	Imiah Lively	Catherine Paul	Bryan & Tara Vinson
Corey Carrell	Dorothy Hart	Frank Love	Sandi Phillips	Glendya Williams
Whitney Carson	Melba Hayden	Nancy Lovett	Linda Pope	Kaleb Zengher
Shelli Childers	Gene & Jimmie	Jenica Maroney	Scarlett Robinson	Methodist Outreach In Zambia
Jim Cornell	Jeanette Hewitt	Nathan Mendoza	Maddie Saunders	Chance
Adele Cortez	Mary Hodges	Clint Mesker	Marla Scott	Nolan
Erble Creasman	Tom Horton	Paul Minton	Don & Barbara Shinn	Penny
Karen Crutchfield	Kay Kingon			

Sympathy: To the family of Cindy Stinson, cousin of Barbara Shinn, who passed away on Friday, January 13th, 2017.

Sympathy: To family of Terry Hockman. Terry joined Asbury on April 15th, 2001 and joined the Church Triumphant on January 30th, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peggy and her family at this time.

### PRAYERS FOR MILITARY & DEPLOYED:

Military & their families

### Annual United Methodist Men Valentines Banquet

The Asbury United Methodist Men will be hosting their annual Valentines Banquet in the Church Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 10th starting at 6:30pm. There will be music, dancing, videos, pictures and a catered dinner. Everyone including singles, couples, family and friends are welcome to attend. Tickets are available from any member of the Methodist Men's group. Prices are \$25 for single tickets and \$45 for couples. Hope to see you there!

### Helpers for Children's Choir

Our children's choir is growing! Because of this, we are needing more volunteers to help out on Wednesday nights. Please let us know if you are interested!

### Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening has conducted 8 million screenings since 1993. They have partnered with over 100 hospitals and are trusted by hospitals nationwide. They want you to take a step toward staying healthy and active by registering for a screening! 9 out of 10 cardiovascular doctors support preventative screenings for those with key risk factors. Life Line Screening will be at Asbury on Tuesday, February 14th, 2017. Pre-registration is required! To register for your appointment and to receive a special \$10 discount, please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).



## Lectionary Readings

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH: ISAIAH 58:1-9, PSALM 112:1-10, 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-12, MATTHEW 5:13-20

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH: DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20, PSALM 119:1-8, 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-9, MATTHEW 5:21-37

## Announcements

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Asbury is participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring this year which helps provide food to families in need. Please have your sacks returned the church on February 5th. Food collected will go to Mackey Chapel UMC. Their food pantry serves 70 families each month!



### 2017 Flower Calendar

To all of you who who've donated flowers in 2016 - Thank You!

What a blessing to see the huge variety of flowers God has created.

Honor a friend. Memorialize a loved one. Celebrate God's love.

There are many openings on the 2017 Flower Calendar.

### Youth Summer Camp Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser

The youth will be selling breakfast burritos during the month of February on the 2nd and 4th Sundays! The burritos will be sold between services. Please support the youth as they fundraise for summer camp!

## Contact Us

4001 E University

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[asburyumcodessa.org](http://asburyumcodessa.org)

432-366-4455

Russ Nebhut

Pastor



[aumcodessa](http://aumcodessa)

## Asbury Upcoming Events

### Sunday, February 5th, 2017:

Scout Sunday  
8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer  
9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship  
10:00 a.m. Life Lessons  
10:00 a.m. Coffee With Pastor Russ  
11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship  
3:30-5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class  
5:00 p.m. Ascent Student Ministries

### Monday, February 6th, 2017:

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Power Flex  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts  
9:30-11:30 a.m. MOPS  
1:30 p.m. Read & Review Book Club  
6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
7:00 p.m. VSC, #121

### Wednesday, February 8th, 2017:

Super Wednesday!  
9:00-11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Melody Makers  
5:30 p.m. Supper  
6:15 p.m. Activities  
7:15 p.m. Choir

### Thursday, February 9th, 2017:

9:00 a.m. Stitches  
6:00 p.m. Power Flex  
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

### Friday, February 10th, 2017:

6:30 p.m. UMM Valentines Banquet. F/H

### Saturday, February 11th, 2017:

8:00-9:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast

### Sunday, February 12th, 2017:

8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer  
9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship  
10:00 a.m. Life Lessons  
10:00 a.m. Coffee With Pastor Russ  
11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship  
3:30-5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class  
5:00 p.m. Ascent Student Ministries  
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
1:00 p.m. Deadline for Newsletter Articles  
11:30 a.m. The Well Board Meeting, #110  
6:00 p.m. Power Flex  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

### Monday, February 13th, 2017:

Newsletter Day  
8:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Lifeline Screening, F/H  
6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
7:00 p.m. VSC, #121

### Wednesday, February 15th, 2017:

Super Wednesday!  
9:00-11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Melody Makers  
5:30 p.m. Supper  
6:15 p.m. Activities  
7:15 p.m. Choir

### Thursday, February 16th, 2017:

9:00 a.m. Stitches  
12:30-2:30 p.m. WTX Twilight Vision, #110  
6:00 p.m. Power Flex  
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts  
8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer  
9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship  
10:00 a.m. Life Lessons  
10:00 a.m. Coffee With Pastor Russ  
11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship  
3:30-5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class  
5:00 p.m. Ascent Student Ministries

